

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Oh, sure.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members, LB 438 is a bill affecting the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped and the Nebraska School for the Deaf. I sent out a sheet that's yellow so you can pick it out of your desk to understand the basic parts of this bill. This is the result of a...some bills passed in 19...a bill passed in '74 that inadvertently, in a way, put the...charged tuition to local school districts sending students to the Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped at Nebraska City and the Nebraska School For The Deaf in Omaha. This is an attempt to change that and to make this entirely funded by the Department of Education by the State of Nebraska, make it directly funded and not have any local tuition be charged to local school districts to the...to the...from...as they come...originate from the local districts. I will let you read on that. I won't repeat it. Nebraska is one of only...is the only state that does not completely support its state schools and I feel that it's only appropriate that when these decisions are made at the local level for sending students that are eligible for these two schools that the costs should not be a factor as to whether it impacts upon the local school district or not and that this properly should be a function of the entire state. Those that need access to these two schools come from anywhere across the state and are a portion of our population that I think should be properly funded entirely across the state and not be dependent once again upon the local property tax support. So I would like to urge adoption of this bill to further the use of both of these schools. I will speak a little further to that in a little bit after Senator Baack offers his amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To the amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Baack would move to amend the bill. (The Baack amendment appears on pages 1391-93 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, my amendment is being passed out right now. And what my amendment does is it tries to clarify in statute exactly the way that LB 438 is going